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Domestic Violence

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Domestic Violence is a Crime

Any person who hits, chokes, kicks, threatens, harasses, or interferes with the personal liberty of another family or household member has broken Illinois domestic violence law.

Under Illinois law, family or household members are defined as:

- family members related by blood or marriage;
- people who are married or used to be married;
- people who share or used to share a home, apartment, or other dwelling;
- people who have or say they have a child in common or say they have a blood relation through a child;
- people who are dating or used to date, including same sex couples; and
- people with disabilities and their personal assistants.

Orders of Protection

An order of protection is a court order that restricts someone who has abused a family or household member. An order of protection may:

- prohibit the abuser from continuing threats and abuse;
- order the abuser out of a shared home or residence;
- order the abuser out of a shared home while they are using drugs or alcohol;
- order the abuser to stay away from you and others protected by the order and keep the abuser from your work, school, or other specific locations;
- require the abuser to attend counseling;

who is being abused?

- prohibit the abuser from taking or hiding children, give you temporary custody, or require the abuser to bring the children to court;
- require the abuser to turn weapons over to local law enforcement; and/or
- prohibit the abuser from other actions.

To Obtain an Order of Protection

To obtain an Order of Protection, you can:

- Contact a domestic violence program for help completing the forms.
- Ask an attorney to file in civil court.
- Request an order with your divorce.
- Request an order during a criminal prosecution.
- Go to your local circuit court clerk's office and get papers to seek an order of protection for yourself.

Law Enforcement Response

Law enforcement should try to prevent further abuse by:

- arresting the abuser when appropriate and completing a police report;
- driving you to a medical facility, shelter, or safe place, or arranging for transportation to a safe place;
- accompanying you back to your home to get belongings; and
- telling you about the importance of saving evidence, such as damaged clothing or property, and taking photographs of injuries or damages.

Abuse includes physical abuse, harassment and intimidation.



Criminal Prosecutions

If you wish to seek criminal charges against your abuser, contact local law enforcement or bring all relevant information, including the police report, to your local state's attorney. You may want to contact a local domestic violence program so they can help you in the criminal legal system

If the Abuser Contacts You After an Arrest

If the abuser was charged with a crime and you or another victim is a family or household member, that abuser probably was ordered not to contact you for at least 72 hours. If the abuser does contact you soon after an arrest, you should call the police because the abuser can be charged with the additional crime.

Violation of an Order of Protection

You should also call police if the abuser disregards a part of the order of protection, because that is another crime: violation of an order of protection.

KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Does your partner:

- Keep track of your schedule and whereabouts?
- Control you by being very bossy or demanding?
- Blame others, especially you, for his/her mistakes?
- Accuse you of flirting or cheating?
- Constantly criticize you?
- Control all the money?
- Humiliate you in front of others (including making “jokes” at your expense)?
- Threaten to hurt you, your children, or your pets?
- Use violence or intimidation to stop you from spending time with friends and family?
- Use violence or intimidation to stop you from working or going to school?
- Force you to have sex, or demand sexual acts that make you uncomfortable?
- Push, hit, slap, punch, kick, or bite you or your children?



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**Where You Can Get
Help and Advice:**

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-SAFE

**Chicagoland Domestic Violence
Help Line**

1-877-863-6338 (*Chicago area*)
1-877-863-6339 (*TTY*)

Chicago Rape Crisis Hotline
1-888-293-2080 (*Chicago area*)

**You can also obtain the Illinois
Domestic Violence Act Victim
Information form from the
Attorney General's
Web site at**

**[www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov/
women/idva.pdf](http://www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov/women/idva.pdf)**

www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov